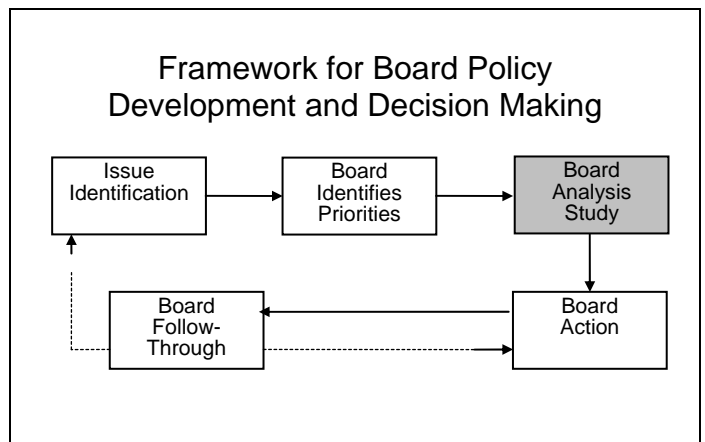


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

December 13, 2007



- Agenda Item:** Community College Students' Transition into the Workforce
- Iowa Goal:** (3) Iowans will pursue higher education that results in improved quality of life supported by better economic opportunities through high skill employment.
- Equity Impact Statement:** The statewide Community College Strategic Plan performance measures address services provided by community colleges that support open access, education, and programs to constituents.
- Presenters:** Janice Nahra Friedel, Ph.D., Administrator  
Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation
- Soko Starobin, Ph.D.,  
Clinician Faculty and Assistant Director of Operations  
Department of Educational Research and Policy Studies  
Office of Community College Research and Policy  
Iowa State University
- Attachments:** 1
- Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.
- Background:** In August 2006, the State Board of Education approved an initial set of performance measures for "Shaping the Future: The Statewide Community College Strategic Plan, 2006-2011." These performance indicators were developed through a joint effort of the Department of Education and the community colleges.

The State Board of Education directed the department to develop measures related to the transfer and economic success of community college students. Two (2) new indicators (Goal #1, Indicator #7—Cumulative Transfer Rate; and Goal #2, Indicator #3—Economic Impact of Iowa's Community Colleges), are proposed.

In August 2007, the State Board received the results of the joint ISU/DE report on the transition of community college students to transfer institutions and employment. The State Board requested further disaggregation of the data within the career clusters to determine the economic impact of community colleges on wage earnings in specific occupations.



# **An Overview of** **Postcollege Earnings by National Career Clusters**

## **Summary of Research Findings**

- In general, regardless of demographics (gender, age, or race), completers earned the highest median annual earnings
- The results of the wage analysis of CTE program participants in Iowa Community Colleges indicate that the completion of an AAS degree serves as an equalizer regardless of gender, age or race for CTE students
  - CTE degree completers obtain higher median annual earnings
  - Completers with AAS degrees earned the highest median annual earnings compared to other completers. Although some mixed results were found among other types of completers, modest differences were noted among AAS completers when comparing gender and race
- Human Services cluster (e.g., Childcare Aid, Childcare Management, and Community Services) indicates one of the lowest median earnings among the National Career Clusters
- Health Science cluster includes one of the highest median annual earnings (e.g., Dental Hygiene and Nursing) as well as low median annual earnings (e.g., Nursing Assistant and Medical Assistant)
- STEM completers earned the highest median earning (\$35,846) in 2005, followed by:

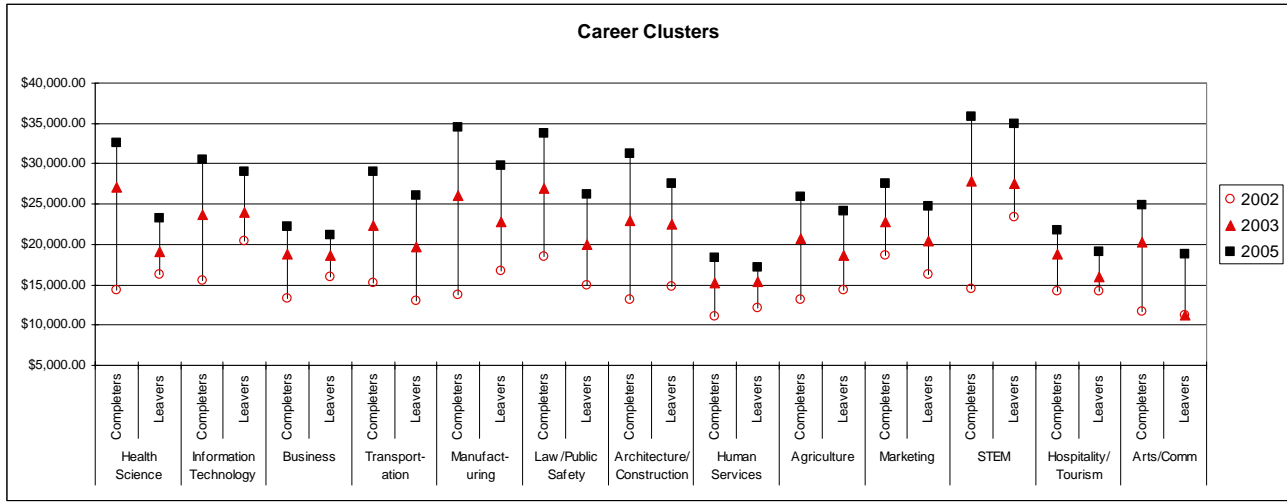
Manufacturing	(\$34,453)
Law/Public Safety	(\$33,811)
Health Science	(\$32,556)



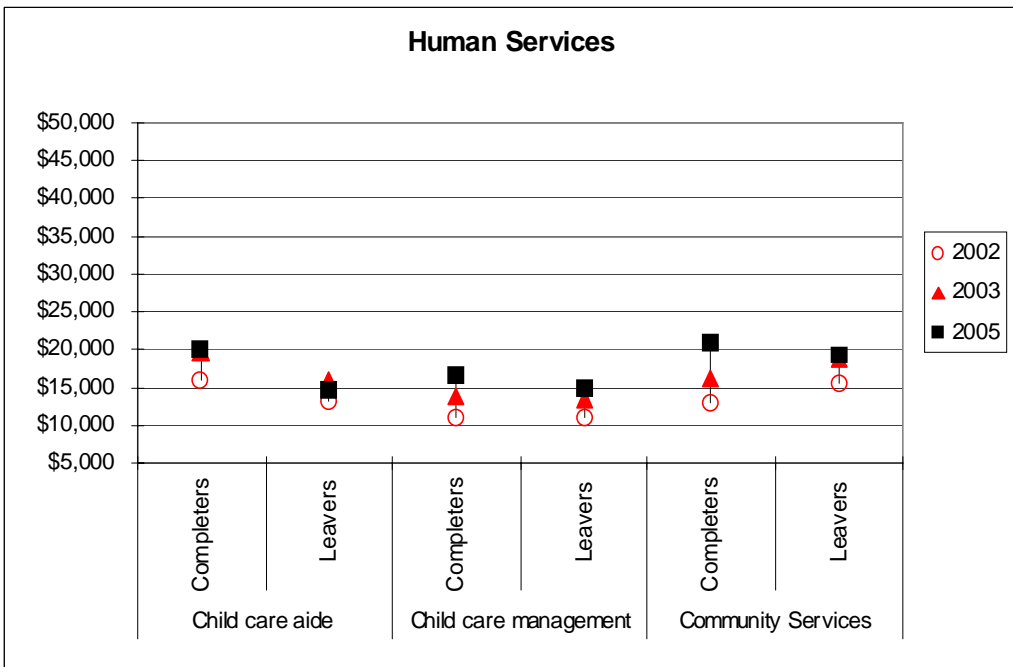
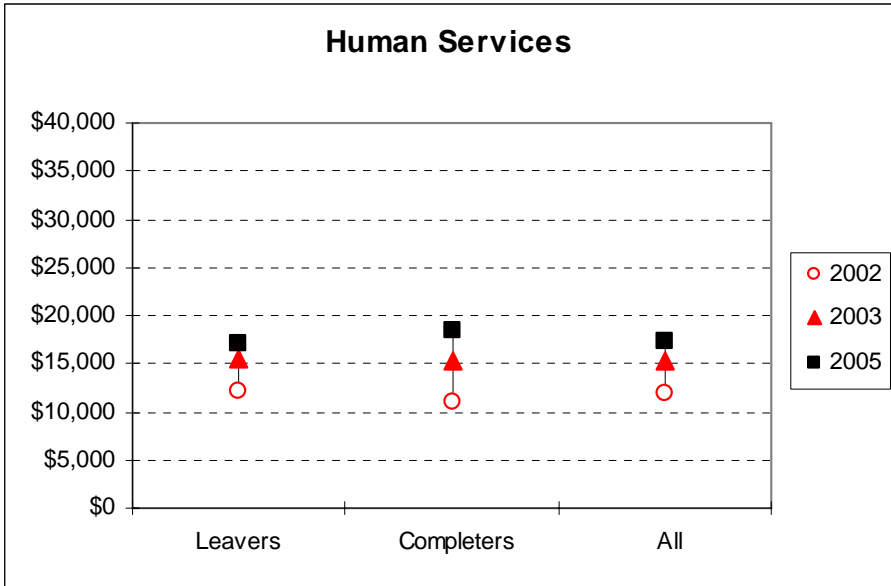
## **Recommendations**

- **These data should be utilized to inform policy makers and practitioners that efforts should be made to assist CTE students in completing a degree, especially an AAS degree.**
- **Further study should be conducted that accounts for the longitudinal trends in earnings to determine their continual increase or leveling off.**
- **Additional study of the trends in earnings disaggregated by CTE programs (e.g., differences in student earnings enrolled in health programs versus those enrolled in information technology programs, etc.) will further explain the impact of acquiring an AAS degree.**

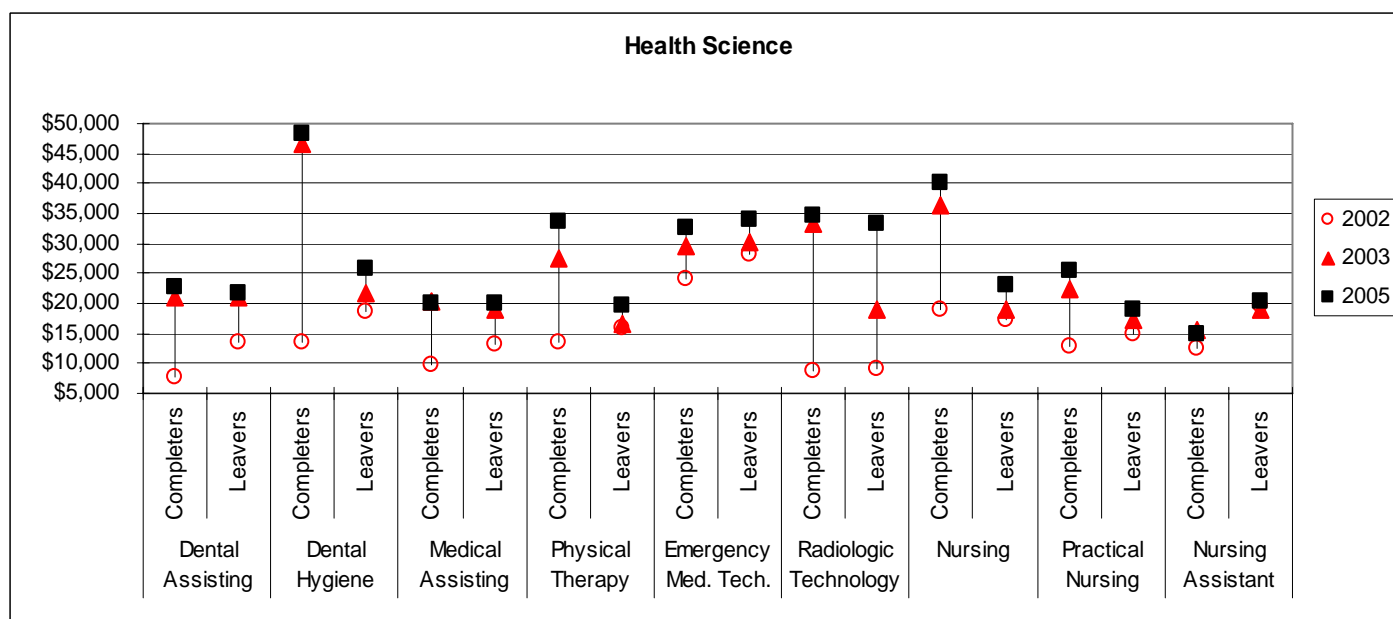
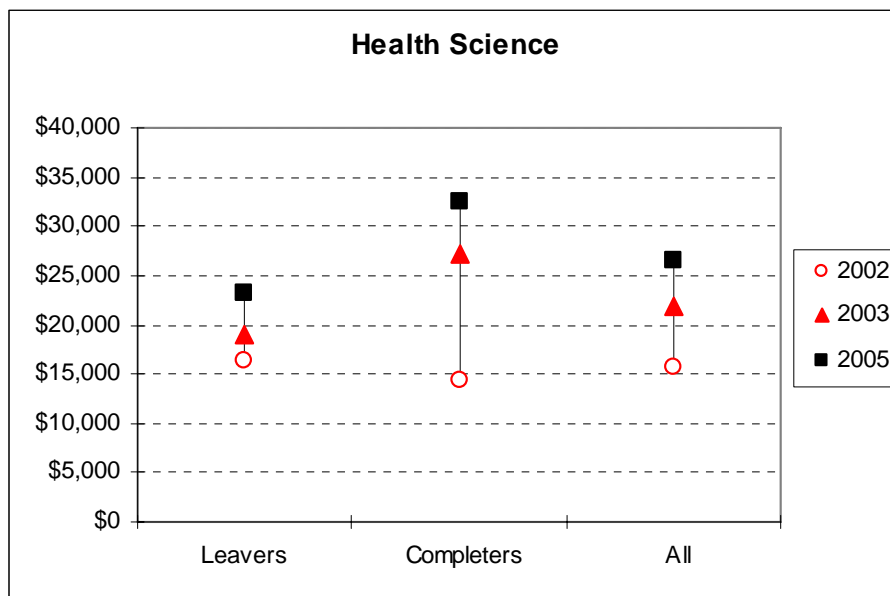
# Completers and Leavers by Career Cluster



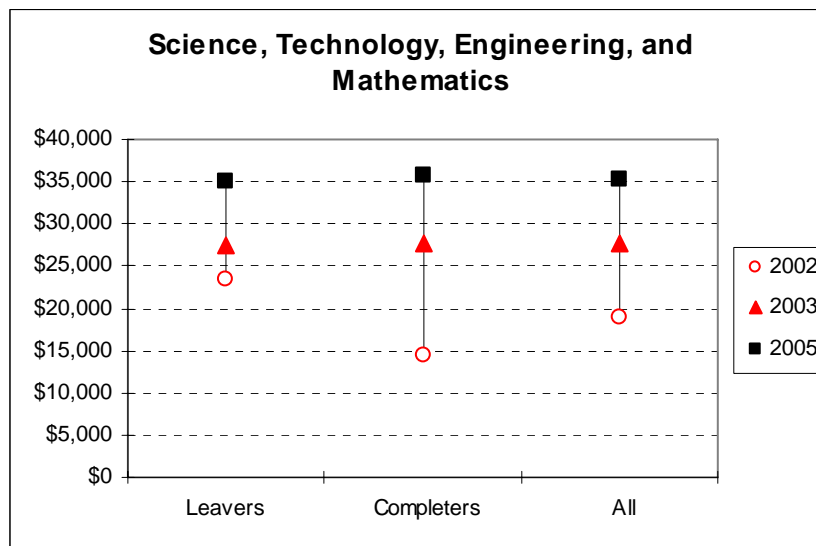
# Human Services Completers and Leavers



# Health Science Completers and Leavers



# Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Completers and Leavers



**\* Note: Disaggregation of all National Career Clusters by Iowa community college CTE programs will be disseminated at the State Board meeting on December 13, 2007.**